

Serial No.: 09/741,406

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559/295001/P9306

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method to enable a device at a public network to establish a connection into a private network, the method comprising:

establishing a persistent connection from an agent component to a server;

~~establishing a connection from a first network component to a second network component;~~

receiving a request from a the device across the a public network at the server ~~first network component~~ to establish a connection between the device and a the private network;

determining if the device is authorized to connect with the private network;

if authorized, forwarding the request from the server to the agent component ~~first network component to the second network component~~; and

the agent component ~~second network component~~ creating a connection between the private network and the device via the server, wherein the agent component is configured for a dynamically-assigned address, and wherein the server is

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~~configured for a persistent address first network component,~~
~~wherein the second component comprises a server.~~

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the agent ~~second network component~~ establishing a temporary connection between the device and a device included in the private network.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, if not authorized, denying the device access to the private network.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which the persistent connection comprises the ~~first network component and the second network component~~ server and the agent component ~~having have~~ a connection lasting as long as a mechanism at each ~~of the components~~ the server and agent component supporting the connection remains active.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which the server ~~first network component~~ and the device have a connection lasting as long as a mechanism at the server ~~first network~~

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~~component~~ and a mechanism at the device supporting the connection remain active.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the determining includes authenticating a password.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 in which the public network includes the Internet.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 in which the agent component and the server ~~first network component and the second network component~~ include proxy servers.

10. (currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

establish a persistent connection from a second first network component to a ~~second~~ first network component;

receive a request from a device across a public network at the ~~first~~ second network component to establish a connection between the device and a private network;

determine if the device is authorized to connect with the private network;

if authorized, forward the request from the second first network component to the ~~second~~ first network component; and

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create, with the ~~second~~ first network component, a connection between the private network and the device via the ~~first~~ second network component, ~~wherein the second component comprises a server, wherein the first network component is configured for a dynamically-assigned address.~~

11. (currently amended) The article of claim 10 further comprising the first ~~second~~ network component establishing a temporary connection between the device and a device included in the private network, wherein the dynamically-assigned address comprises a dynamic IP address.

12. (original) The article of claim 10 further comprising, if not authorized, denying the device access to the private network.

13. (cancelled)

14. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the first network component and the second network component have a connection lasting as long as a mechanism at each of the components supporting the connection remains active.

15. (currently amended) The article of claim 10 in which the second ~~first~~ network component and the device have a

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connection lasting as long as a mechanism at the second ~~first~~ network component and a mechanism at the device supporting the connection remain active.

16. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the determining includes authenticating a password.

17. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the public network includes the Internet.

18. (original) The article of claim 10 in which the first network component and the second network component include proxy servers.

19. (currently amended) A system comprising:
a device configured to connect to a public network;
a server component configured to connect to the public network; and

an agent component configured to connect to the server component and to a private network, and further configured to provide the device with access to the private network via the server component and the public network, wherein the agent component is configured to connect to the server component prior to connecting to the private network, and wherein the agent

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component is further configured for a dynamically-assigned address.

20. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is also configured to provide any number of devices configured to connect to the public network with access to the private network via the server component and the public network.

21. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is also configured to provide the device with access to a device included in the private network.

22. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the server component and the agent component are both extensible to support any protocols used by the public network and by the private network.

23. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the public network includes the Internet.

24. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the server component is also configured to authenticate the device.

25. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is also configured to maintain a connection with the

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server component as long as a mechanism at each of the components supporting the connection remains active.

26. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the server component is also configured to maintain a connection with the device as long as a mechanism at the server component and a mechanism at the device supporting the connection remain active.

27. (cancelled)

28. (original) The system of claim 19 in which the agent component is implemented inside the private network.

29. (cancelled)